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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GUIDELINES FOR APPROPRIATE TYPES OF CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 9 December 1992, the General Assembly adopted resolution 47/54 D entitled "Implementation of the guidelines for appropriate types of confidence-building measures", the operative part of which reads, inter alia, as follows:

> "The General Assembly,
>
> "4. Appeals to all States to consider the widest possible use of confidence-building measures in their international relations, including bilateral, regional and global negotiations, as an important step towards prevention of conflict and, in times of political tension and crisis, as an instrument for peaceful settlement of conflicts;
>
> "5. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to pursue actively its work on the agenda item entitled 'Transparency in armaments', which includes consideration and elaboration of universal and non-discriminatory practical means to increase openness and transparency in military matters;
>
> "6. Invites the Secretary-General to continue to collect relevant information from all Member States;
>
> "7. Appeals to all Member States that have not yet done so to make their contribution to the report of the Secretary-General".

2. Pursuant to that request of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, in a note verbale dated 28 February 1994, invited Member States to provide relevant information on this matter. The replies received are reproduced in section II of the present report.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

AUSTRIA

[Original: English]

[2 June 1994]

1. As a member of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), Austria implements the confidence- and security-building measures as agreed upon in the Vienna Document 1992. In the view of Austria, these measures constitute important instruments for confidence-building and thus for conflict prevention in the CSCE region. Within the negotiations of the CSCE Forum for Security Cooperation, Austria strives to contribute actively to further enhancement of confidence- and security-building measures.

2. Since Austria is convinced of the positive effects of such measures, in certain cases confidence-building measures which exceed the obligations of the Vienna Document 1992 are carried out on a voluntary basis. Thus, for example, in 1992 the neighbouring countries Slovenia and Italy were invited to observe a

military exercise. In this context, different cooperation agreements between the Federal Ministry of Defence with the corresponding ministries of other States (among those of Bulgaria, Slovenia, Germany, the United States of America and Italy) have to be mentioned.

COLOMBIA

[Original: Spanish]

[21 June 1994]

1. The implementation of confidence-building measures in relations with other States has been a constant concern in the formulation of Colombian foreign policy, in that it has been perceived as an essential mechanism for the consolidation of peace and security in the region.

2. A climate of confidence is established on the basis of observance of and respect for international law and the non-use of force through the quest for and consolidation of machinery facilitating the peaceful settlement of disputes. Such has been the long-standing policy of Colombia.

3. In this connection Colombia has adopted a number of important multilateral and bilateral measures.

4. In the multilateral sphere we have taken initiatives aimed at strengthening the concepts and conclusions relating to hemispheric security developed by the Organization of American States (OAS), such as the implementation of measures to guarantee democracy, protect human rights and promote economic and social development.

5. In addition we, with the other countries of the region, have agreed upon a conceptual framework for the establishment of machinery underpinning the commitment to mutual defence, the aim of which is to ensure the peace and security of the hemisphere. This has been done through consultation, as in the case of the meetings of government experts on regional confidence-building measures and security machinery, which sought to identify specific measures in pursuance of these objectives.

6. Attention must be drawn within this conceptual framework to one aspect of particular importance which has provided common ground for the States of the region. This is recognition of the fact that the term "security" is not strictly military. Ultimately it is a concept embracing various elements ranging from the economic and social order, and comprehensive development, to questions relating to illicit trafficking in drugs and weapons, and the protection of the environment.

7. For Colombia a new system of hemispheric security must be based on decisive factors in the strengthening of cooperation among States, such as mutual transparency - which can be attained through reciprocal inspection procedures.

8. This approach includes the establishment of the Binational Commissions on Good Neighbourliness and Integration with neighbouring countries: with Venezuela and Ecuador, in 1989; with Panama, in 1992; and with Brazil and Peru, in 1994.

9. The establishment of these Commissions is based on three fundamental elements:

(a) Shared regional values and interests;

(b) Identification of situations imperilling shared values and the design of appropriate pre-emptive and reactive machinery; and

(c) Implementation of the necessary agreements on collective measures to avert and neutralize activities entailing risks.

10. These countries occupy the northern region of the South American continent and have developed an awareness of their common regional interests: the strengthening of their democracies, respect for freedom and political pluralism, economic integration and development of their market economies, promotion of human rights, maintenance of social justice, and, as an ultimate objective, the promotion of the welfare of their peoples and the preservation of peace.

11. Colombia, in a spirit of realism and pragmatism, has designed the machinery of the Commissions on Good Neighbourliness, which, based on the identification of binational interests, formulate appropriate pre-emptive and reactive instruments in response to situations threatening shared values.

12. These instruments draw on the various agreements on binational measures intended to avert and neutralize situations that might engender common threats to economic integration, promotion of trade, judicial cooperation, migration and crime control.

13. The Commissions on Good Neighbourliness and Integration are presided over by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States parties, and meet alternately in each State, at intervals corresponding to progress in their activities.

14. The Colombian national commission comprises high-level representation from the public and private sectors and from frontier areas, whose role is to generate initiatives and assure follow-up of the undertakings entered into by the parties.

15. In the interest of efficiency, operational concerns are delegated to binational technical subcommissions, constituted in accordance with the issues on the agenda: economic and trade integration, border integration, the environment and sustainable development, infrastructure, transport and telecommunications, judicial cooperation, mining and energy, education and culture, tourism, ethnic affairs and health, among others.

16. Consolidation of the objectives of the Commissions on Good Neighbourliness and Integration will, in the medium and long term, strengthen mutual confidence in the region. The Commissions have helped to generate a new concept of international cooperation highlighting the promotion of economic and social development.